

No. 27469

**AUSTRALIA
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Agreement on human contacts and humanitarian cooperation (with protocol). Signed at Canberra on 15 February 1990

Authentic texts: English and Russian.

Registered by Australia on 30 July 1990.

**AUSTRALIE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES**

Accord relatif aux contacts humains et à la coopération dans le domaine humanitaire (avec protocole). Signé à Canberra le 15 février 1990

Textes authentiques : anglais et russe.

Enregistré par l'Australie le 30 juillet 1990.

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SO- CIALIST REPUBLICS ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND HUMANI- TARIAN CO-OPERATION

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Desirous of further strengthening friendly relations, trust and mutual understanding between the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Australia;

Acknowledging that the development in human contacts and humanitarian co-operation between the peoples of both countries and the solution of human problems would facilitate the attainment of these goals;

Convinced of the necessity, notwithstanding any differences in their positions and views, of effective human contacts and humanitarian co-operation as factors for peace and international security;

Recognising their international obligations including under the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ as well as Acting in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;⁴

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The Contracting Parties shall give the utmost encouragement to the development of humanitarian co-operation between the two countries. To attain this goal the Contracting Parties shall encourage the expansion and maintenance of contacts between people, establishments and organisations, and provide the opportunity for such contacts.

2. Contacts between people, establishments and organisations in accordance with this Agreement shall include:

- (a) Visits for family purposes, marriage and other private reasons;
- (b) Visits for professional and business purposes and tourism;
- (c) Movement for permanent residence for the purpose of family reunification;
- (d) Contacts in such fields as culture, science, religion, education, sport and the mass media.

3. In developing contacts under this Agreement the Contracting Parties shall not distinguish between persons on the ground of their origin, social and property status, race, nationality, colour, sex, education, language or religion.

¹ Came into force on 15 February 1990 by signature, in accordance with article 13.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 999, p. 171; vol. 1057, p. 407 (rectification of authentic Spanish text); vol. 1059, p. 451 (corrigendum to vol. 999).

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 993, p. 3.

⁴ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I*, p. 71.

4. Contacts provided for under this Agreement shall be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in each country. The Contracting Parties shall ensure that restrictions provided for by such laws and regulations are consistent with their international obligations, including their obligations under this Agreement.

Article 2

Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to reach a decision on all visa applications for entry to its territory as expeditiously as possible, paying special attention to applications of an urgent humanitarian character.

Article 3

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that persons from the other country settled permanently in its territory for a purpose envisaged by this Agreement shall enjoy the same economic and social opportunities as are enjoyed by its own citizens subject to the laws and administrative regulations of the state of residence.

Article 4

For the purpose of this Agreement, each Contracting Party shall ensure rapid delivery of correspondence, including personal mail, and the conditions necessary for rapid telephone calls, including the use and development of direct dialing systems, and other generally available means of communication and respect the privacy of all such communications.

Article 5

Seeking to undertake the contacts referred to in this Agreement shall not modify rights and obligations in accordance with the purposes of this Agreement, of the person concerned or his or her family, particularly with reference to employment, housing, status of residence, support of dependants, social, economic and educational privileges as well as other such rights and obligations stemming from the laws and administrative regulations of the Contracting State.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitments to encourage and facilitate contacts between representatives of establishments, organisations and enterprises engaged in trade and economic relations as envisaged in the agreements and arrangements between the Parties.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitments to encourage contacts for the purpose of developing co-operation in culture, education and science in accordance with the agreements between them.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall:

- (a) Facilitate greater opportunity for journalists of their two countries to communicate personally with their sources of information, including organisations and official establishments, for the purposes of reporting events, issues and people's lives;